

Dear Karen E. Mouritsen,

My name is Charlie Demi, and I am a senior at The Ohio State University studying Evolution and Ecology. This past summer, I had the privilege of living in Nelsonville, Ohio, working with graduate students at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State conducting secondary forest succession research in the Wayne National Forest. Over the course of the summer, I came to know "the Wayne," to spend all day collecting data, studying life, and admiring the beauty of the woods. I found some pretty fascinating things in my time in the Wayne, things that the average visitor might be astounded by if not overlooked, life and natural beauty with an amazing story. I found wild ginseng, a plant harvested for its medicinal purposes whose roots can sell for hundreds of dollars. I found American Chestnut trees, the last survivors of a species that was nearly wiped to extinction, still fighting an introduced blight. I found gorgeous Zebra Swallowtail butterflies, the only member of the kite swallowtail family found in America, that has beautiful six-inch black and white striped wings. I found salamanders, snakes, frogs, toads, deer, songbirds, caterpillars, spiders, and snails all in their most natural state, and it was incredible. I even saw box-turtles having sex.

I hail from Claysville, Pennsylvania, a town of 700 people very close to the West Virginia border, where fracking has run amuck. For two summers as a teenager, I suffered many nights of sleep loss from the noise and light produced by natural gas wells surrounding my home. I watched as hundreds of acres of land were destroyed to make way for drilling pads, roads, and pipelines needed for the fracking industry. I was forever stuck behind large trucks on winding roads that weren't designed for such large loads, and heard the horror stories of neighbors and friends whose well water became undrinkable, well water that could literally be ignited by a lighter. I watched as an industry took over and made changes to the land, changes that will not be undone in my lifetime.

There is very little that could speak against the thousands of dollars that landowners in Donegal Township, Pennsylvania, were receiving from the fracking industry to lease their land. However, the idea of fracking coming to a national forest, federal land, MY FEDERALLY OWNED WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST, is appalling. Humans have proven to be one of the most adaptable creatures on earth. Considering the negative effects that fracking has had on me and my home, I can only imagine what detrimental effects the practice will have on the Wayne. These species that must maintain a delicate balance for life cannot tolerate fracking on their essential landscape. Fracking in the Wayne is a terrible idea on many levels, and I can only hope that the Wayne will retain its beauty so long as the earth is spinning.

With that, I have reviewed the internet-based lease-sale for parcels of land in Wayne National Forest, and hereby object to the sale put forth by the federal government concerning over 1,600 acres of mineral rights beneath the forest. My objections refer to the ~~27~~ parcels of land outlined in the letter and also listed

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GENERAL

here:

- 1) ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ
Lee Township, Monroe County
Section 8, SENE, S₂ SWNE
60 acres
- 2) ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE
47.00 acres
- 3) ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 19, W₂ SE
79.15 acres
- 4) ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 20, SE_{1/4} NESW
30.03 acres
- 5) ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 25
94.72 acres
- 6) ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 26, NESW, Pt. NW SW
78.25 acres
- 7) ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 27, SENE
40.00 acres
- 8) ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Section 31, NESE
38.96 acres
- 9) ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 31, SESE
38.96 acres
- 10) ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 32 Pt. W₂ SW
64.30 acres
- 11) ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 33, NESW
40.13 acres
- 12) ES 014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
See. 34, Pt. SENE
15.12 acres
- 13) ES 015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 34 Pt. NENW
30.23 acres
- 14) ES 016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 34 Pt. NWNW
22.14 acres
- 15) ES 017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 35 Pt. SENWSW
30.64 acres
- 16) ES 018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 35 Pt. W₂ SWSW
0.86 acres
- 17) ES 019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW
73.25 acres
- 18) ES 020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE
2.53 acres
- 19) ES 021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 20, NENE
40.08 acres
- 20) ES 022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 20, NENW
40.00 acres
- 21) ES 023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 20, NWNE
40.00 acres
- 22) ES 024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 21, S₂ SE, E₂ SW
157.44 acres

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- 23) ES 025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ
 Perry Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 34, NESESE
 10.16 acres
- 24) ES 026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ
 Jackson Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 30, SSEE
 39.98 acres
- 25) ES 027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ
 Jackson Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 30, Pt. N, SE
 64.72 acres
- 26) ES 028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ
 Jackson Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 36, SSW, Pt. W, SW
 34.65 acres
- 27) ES 029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ
 Jackson Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 36, NENE
 40.22 Acres
- 28) ES 030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ
 Perry Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 3, Pt. N, SE
 28.00 Acres
- 29) ES 031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ
 Perry Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 6, Pt. NE
 56.00 acres
- 30) ES 032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ
 Green Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N, SE, SSE
 158.62 acres
- 31) ES 033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ
 Washington Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 18, Pt. W, NE, Pt. NW
 58.14 acres
- 32) ES 034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ
 Wayne Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 3, NWNW
 40.44 acres
- 33) ES 035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ
 Liberty Township, Monroe County
 Sec. 29, Pt. S, SESE
 1.17 acres

I object to this sale for the reasons outlined in the remainder of this letter:

Reason #1: Fracking will further contribute to climate change.

The burning of fossil fuels such as natural gas obtained from fracking increase carbon concentration in the atmosphere. Carbon retains solar radiation in the atmosphere as heat and causes the atmosphere to warm. A warmer atmosphere and altering climate patterns wreak havoc on ecosystems, sending species out of sync with the natural cycles they have evolved over millions of years. The burning of fossil fuels is altering our world faster than species can adapt, driving them to extinction. Maintaining biodiversity is essential to the health of our natural world, and is beneficial to humans in that it keeps our water clear, pollinates our crops, provides us with oxygen, and is of great importance to producing drugs and maintaining human health.

Reason #2: Fracking is detrimental to the landscape, destroying habitat and water sources

Just like in my home area, the land required to support the infrastructure of fracking, such as drilling pads, retention ponds, roads, and pipelines is taken from its pristine state and altered for decades or centuries to come. This destroys the habitat for the amazing wildlife



destroys oxygen-providing forest and life-sustaining habitat. The chemicals pumped into the ground to extract the natural gas can contaminate groundwater, groundwater that feeds springs and streams, and ground water that can be lit on fire when it comes out of somebody's well after being contaminated.

Reason #3: Fracking depreciates the value of our land

With a decrease in biodiversity, a loss in beauty, and ruined water supplies, the land affected by fracking loses its value. Recreation in the Wayne is 100% dependent on its natural beauty and natural state. Without the animals to hunt, trails to ride and hike, water to sustain life, and alluring beauty, the Wayne has much less power to attract people, and inspire them to learn about and protect our natural world. A damaged, injured natural world has far less value to humans than a healthy one.

Reason #4: It sets a horrid precedent

If 1,600 acres of the Wayne are leased off in December, what's keeping the other 238,400 acres from being leased off in January? What would keep us from selling off other national forests to the fracking industry? This decision ~~will~~ creates a blurry line, one that would make the further degradation of our great federal lands much easier to just allow to happen. Allowing the Wayne to be leased off to the fracking industry opens the door to seeing all of these horrible effects mentioned in this letter making their way into not just our backyard but to everyone's backyard.

The thought of fracking coming to the Wayne is terrifying. I feel as if allowing fracking on my federal land is a very irresponsible decision, one that I strongly oppose. Fracking would degrade the Wayne through habitat and biodiversity loss, decreasing the value of the ~~wayne~~ land, and ruining the water supply of the area. It also contributes to the degradation of our planet, by extracting a material that contributes to climate change. I have witnessed and experienced first-hand the horrors of fracking, and would be extremely dispirited seeing this practice come to the Wayne. Let's stop fracking from coming to the Wayne, and therefore stop fracking from spreading to all federal land.

Sincerely Yours,
Charlie Demi

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LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST
11/5/2016

Total # of Parcels: 28
Total Acreage: 1,622.11 acres

ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ

Lee Township, Monroe County

Section 8, SENW, S2SWNE.

60 acres

ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE

47.00 acres

ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 19, W2SE

79.15 acres

ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 20, S3/4 NESW

30.03 acres

ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 25

94.72 acres

ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 26, NESW, Pt. NWSW

78.25 acres

ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 27, SENW

40.00 acres

ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 31, NESE
38.96 acres

ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 31, SESE
38.96 acres

ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 32, Pt. W2SW
64.30 acres

ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 33, NESW
40.13 acres

ES-014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 34, Pt. SENE
15.12 acres

ES-015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 34, Pt. NENW
30.23 acres

ES-016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 34, Pt. NWNW
22.14 acres

ES-017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 35, Pt. SENWSWE
30.64 acres

ES-018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 35, Pt. W2SWSW
0.86 acres

ES-019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 36, SSES, Pt. W2SW
39.65 acres

ES-029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ
Jackson Township, Monroe County
Sec. 36, NENE
40.22 acres

ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE
28.00 acres

ES-031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 6, Pt. NE
56.00 acres

ES-032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ
Green Township, Monroe County
Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N2SE, SESE
158.62 acres

ES-033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ
Washington Township, Monroe County
Sec. 18 Pt. W2NE, Pt. NW
58.14 acres

ES-034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ
Wayne Township, Monroe County
Sec. 3, NWNW
40.24 acres

ES-035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ
Liberty Township, Monroe County
Sec. 29, Pt. S2SESE
1.17 acres

ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ
Perry Township, Monroe County
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE
28.00 acres

Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW

73.25 acres

ES-020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE

2.53 acres

ES-021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NENE

40.08 acres

ES-022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NENW

40.00 acres

ES-023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 20, NWNE

40.00 acres

ES-024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 21, S2SE, E2SW

157.44 acres

ES-025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County

Sec. 34, NESESE

10.16 acres

ES-026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 30, SESE

39.98 acres

ES-027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 30, Pt. N2SE

64.72 acres

ES-028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County